

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 32, and 33 without prejudice, amend claims 1, 3, 15, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 30, and add new claims 34-37 as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment practice, changes in the amended claims are shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough (for deleted matter). All the pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Amended) An apparatus for use by an operator for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, said apparatus comprising:

a stand;

a tire mount supported by said stand and releasably attachable to the tire;

a tire rasp;

a tire rasp mount attachable to said tire rasp;

a support for pivotally attaching said tire rasp mount to said stand, said support comprises a plurality of bars, each of said bars being pivotally attached at one end to said tire rasp mount and pivotally attached at the other end to said stand;

a driver operably connected to said tire mount and to said tire rasp for rotating said tire mount and said tire rasp; and

wherein the operator is able to manually move said tire rasp into contact with the tire and apply pressure between said tire rasp and the tire to texturize tread surfaces of the tire.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support plurality of bars comprises four bars, each of said bars being pivotally attached at one end to said tire rasp mount with hime joints and pivotally attached at the other end to said stand with hime joints.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tire rasp is movable toward and away from the tread surfaces of the tire, across the tread surfaces of the tire, and around edges of the tread surfaces of the tire.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tire rasp mount comprises a pair of handles.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tire mount and said tire rasp rotate in opposite directions.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein an axis of the tire and an axis of said tire rasp are disposed horizontally and parallel to each other.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tire rasp comprises a plurality of spaced-apart blades.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tire rasp comprises a plurality of spaced-apart blades sinusoidally disposed around the circumference of said tire rasp.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tire mount comprises a plurality of lugs.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said driver comprises a gasoline engine operably connected for rotating said tire mount and said tire rasp.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support comprises a cage extending around a portion of said tire rasp.

13. (Original) A manually operated portable apparatus for use by an operator to texturize tread surfaces of a tire, said apparatus comprising:

a stand;

a tire mount supported by said stand and releasably attachable to the tire;

a texturizing hub;

a hub mount attachable to said texturizing hub, said hub mount comprising a plurality of handles;

a support for attaching said hub mount to said stand, said support comprising a plurality of bars, each of said bars being pivotally attached at one end to said hub mount and pivotally attached at the other end to said stand;

a driver operably connected to said tire mount and to said texturizing hub for rotating said tire mount and said texturizing hub; and

wherein the operator is able to grab said plurality of handles and manually move said texturizing hub into contact with the tire and apply pressure between said texturizing hub and the tire to texturize tread surfaces of the tire.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said texturizing hub is movable toward and away from the tread surfaces of the tire, across the tread surfaces of the tire, and around edges of the tread surfaces of the tire.

15. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said support plurality of bars comprises four bars, each of said bars being pivotally attached at one end to said hub mount with hinge joints and pivotally attached at the other end to said stand with hinge joints.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said texturizing hub comprises a tire rasp having a plurality of spaced-apart blades.

17. (Original) A manually operated portable apparatus for use by an operator to texturize tread surfaces of a tire, said apparatus comprising:

a stand;

a tire mount supported by said stand for supporting the tire about a first horizontally-disposed axis of rotation;

a texturizing hub;

a hub mount for rotatably supporting said texturizing hub about a second horizontally-disposed axis of rotation, said hub mount comprising a pair of vertically-extending handles;

a support for attaching said hub mount to said stand, said support comprising a plurality of bars, each of said bars being pivotally attached at one end to said hub mount and pivotally attached at the other end to said stand;

a driver operably connected to said tire mount and to said texturizing hub for rotating said tire mount and said texturizing hub; and

wherein said handles are disposed at waist height and wherein the operator is able to grab said pair of handles and manually move said texturizing hub into contact with the tire and apply pressure between said texturizing hub and the tire to texturize tread surfaces of the tire.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said texturizing hub is movable toward and away from the tread surfaces of the tire, across the tread surfaces of the tire, and around edges of the tread surfaces of the tire.

19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said support plurality of bars comprises four bars, each of said bars being attached pivotally attached at one end to said hub mount with hinge joints and pivotally attached at the other end to said stand with hinge joints.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said texturizing hub comprises a tire rasp having a plurality of spaced-apart blades.

21. (Amended) An apparatus for use by an operator for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, said apparatus comprising:

a stand;

tire mount means supported by said stand for supporting the tire;

texturizing means for at least one of slicing and gouging;

hub mount means for rotatably supporting said texturizing means;

support means for pivotally attaching said texturizing means to said stand so that said texturizing means is movable toward and away from the tread surfaces of the tire, across the tread surfaces of the tire, and around edges of the tread surfaces of the tire, said support means comprising a plurality of bars, each of said bars being pivotally attached at one end to said tire mount means and pivotally attached at the other end to said stand; and

drive means operably connected to said tire mount means and to said texturizing means for rotating said tire mount means and said texturizing means.

22. (Amended) A method for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus of claim 1; and

operating the apparatus to form a plurality of at least one of slices and grooves circumferentially around portions of the tread surfaces of the tire.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the at least one of slices and grooves are about 1/32-inch to about 1/16-inch deep.

24. (Amended) A method for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus of claim 13; and

operating the apparatus to form a plurality of at least one of slices and grooves circumferentially around portions of the tread surfaces of the tire.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the at least one of slices and grooves are about 1/32-inch to about 1/16-inch deep.

26. (Amended) A method for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus of claim 17; and

operating the apparatus to form a plurality of at least one of slices and grooves circumferentially around portions of the tread surfaces of the tire.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the at least one of slices and grooves are about 1/32-inch to about 1/16-inch deep.

28. (Amended) A method for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus of claim 21; and

operating the apparatus to form a plurality of at least one of slices and grooves circumferentially around portions of the tread surfaces of the tire.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the at least one of slices and grooves are about 1/32-inch to about 1/16-inch deep.

30. (Amended) A method for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, the method comprising:

forming a plurality of at least one of slices and grooves about 1/32-inch to about 1/16-inch deep into the tread surfaces of the tire while maintaining the thickness of the tread.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the plurality of at least one of slices and grooves extend circumferentially around portions of the tread surfaces of the tire.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) A method for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, the method comprising:
providing an apparatus for use by an operator for texturizing tread
surfaces of a tire, the apparatus comprising:
 a stand;
 a tire mount supported by the stand and releasably attachable to
the tire;
 a tire rasp;
 a tire rasp mount attachable to the tire rasp;
 a support for pivotally attaching the tire rasp mount to the stand;
 a driver operably connected to the tire mount and to the tire rasp
for rotating said tire mount and the tire rasp; and
 wherein the operator is able to manually move the tire rasp into
contact with the tire and apply pressure between the tire rasp and the tire to
texturize tread surfaces of the tire; and
operating the apparatus to form a plurality of at least one of slices and
grooves about 1/32-inch to about 1/16-inch deep circumferentially around
portions of the tread surfaces of the tire.

35. (New) A method for texturizing tread surfaces of a tire, the method comprising:
providing an apparatus for use by an operator for texturizing tread
surfaces of a tire, the apparatus comprising:

a stand;
tire mount means supported by the stand for supporting the tire;
texturizing means for at least one of slicing and gouging;
hub mount means for rotatably supporting the texturizing
means;

support means for pivotally attaching the texturizing means to
the stand so that the texturizing means is movable toward and away from the tread
surfaces of the tire, across the tread surfaces of the tire, and around edges of the
tread surfaces of the tire; and

drive means operably connected to the tire mount means and
to the texturizing means for rotating the tire mount means and the texturizing
means; and

operating the apparatus to form a plurality of at least one of slices and
grooves are about 1/32-inch to about 1/16-inch deep circumferentially around
portions of the tread surfaces of the tire.

36. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the forming comprises forming a
plurality of at least one of slices and grooves using a texturizing hub.

37. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the forming comprises forming a
plurality of at least one of slices and grooves using a tire rasp.

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